

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

March 11, 2008
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mr. John C. Austin, Vice President
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate (via telephone)
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer
Mr. Reginald M. Turner
Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich
Mrs. Sue Carnell, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
ex officio

Absent: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer
Mrs. June Teisan, 2007-2008 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Straus called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Mrs. Straus said she is chairing the meeting during the absence of Mr. Michael Flanagan who is out of town due to the death of his brother Patrick.

II. INFORMATIONAL FOLDER ITEMS

- A. Information on Public School Year-end Deficits – Annual Report to the Legislature – Memorandum dated March 11, 2008
- B. Special Education Advisory Committee Quick Notes – Memorandum dated March 11, 2008

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. 2007-2008 Special Projects Grants Under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Amendment – added to agenda
- B. Resolution for the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust – added to agenda

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich
Absent: McGuire**

The motion carried.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS,
DEPARTMENT STAFF, AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education, Department of Education staff, and guests attending the meeting.

V. POINT OF THE DAY

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Office of Communications, presented the Point of the Day that focused on the Michigan Merit Exam, and the increase in the number of students participating in testing.

VI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:59 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

VII. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Straus called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation on Reading First

The following individuals presented:

- Ms. Betty Underwood, Interim Director, Office of School Improvement
- Mr. Mark Coscarella, Supervisor, Reading First

Reading First, part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, is a focused nationwide effort to provide states and school districts with support to establish research-based reading programs for students in kindergarten through third grade. The presentation shared the outcomes and results of the program to date.

A PowerPoint presentation and two video clips were shown.

Board member comments and *staff clarifications* included:

1. there are five core reading programs that teachers can choose from; do districts choose one program or several – *one program is chosen to be implemented throughout the district for consistency across classrooms;*
2. is there flexibility in the program for teachers to use with students who have different learning styles – *yes, the program is flexible; teachers use data-driven decision making;*
3. the district-wide program in Detroit helped students to have consistency; also helps with transiency of students who change schools or classrooms; scores have improved; Detroit teachers think this has worked well;
4. why would building participation be disinvited – *buildings are “disinvited” because of poor performance or not following the rules;*
5. explain poor performance – *poor performance means if instruction was not followed per the program, improved performance did not occur; research based programs are used; there are many supports provided;*
6. are “disinvited” schools helped – *there are Title I and other initiatives; extra support and technical assistance are given;*
7. we don’t want to take valuable resources from schools where students are most in need – *the decision to “disinvite” is not taken lightly; schools are given extra assistance prior to the decision; there are schools that really want the program;*
8. how many schools were “disinvited”; - *five out of 176 schools were “disinvited”;*
9. would Reading First be considered a success – *yes, over 8,000 students exited the high risk category, and they are no longer considered at risk for reading failure;*
10. did other challenged schools have similar success by using a program other than Reading First – *evaluation done by Dr. Joanne Carlisle, University of Michigan, indicates that students in Reading First schools are making similar progress as students in schools that are not eligible for Reading First; this is significant because students who are initially at greater risk are making great progress with Reading First;*

11. how many students are not served due to lack of funding; how much would full funding cost – *information will be provided to the Board;*
12. most children have the cognitive ability to learn to read, if given the right support – *research shows that between two and five percent of children are learning disabled; if there is targeted and intensified instruction, all children will make progress;*
13. statistics show that high percentages of children are underachieving in reading; where is the disconnect – *it is complex and not just one issue;*
14. as a society we must have higher expectations, because we allow low expectations; basic tools are available; other cultures have the expectation to read; if we are going to move society forward and save Michigan, we need to have a cultural movement to increase expectations;
15. is federal funding for Reading First likely to continue as part of the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act – *Reading First received a 61% reduction in funding for next year; future funding is unclear at this time;*
16. when Reading First began, direct instruction advocates believed they may be excluded – *direct instruction is a teaching technique rather than a program; if teaching techniques work with the Reading First program they are not excluded; programs were chosen based on five essential comprehensive components, and direct instruction did not seem to meet the five components;*
17. students are given assistance in first grade, which is better than waiting until third grade as was done in the past; the earlier the better;
18. how does Michigan's Integrative Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSI) relate to Reading First - *many schools have both MiBLSI and Reading First programs which are similar because they are frameworks for early intervention rather than waiting for children to fail; the programs work well together;*
19. is Reading Recovery compatible – *Reading Recovery is a program for first graders at the lowest reading level who work intensively with the teacher one on one; it is compatible with Reading First;*

20. how were schools made aware of the Reading First grants – *the opportunity was frequently made visible, and technical assistance was given for the grant process;*
21. what is being done to assist middle and high school students with reading – *Striving Readers program is at the middle school level; funding is needed; regional literacy training centers are assembling a website of resources called Lifting Off to Literacy for teachers of adolescent readers; and*
22. Reading First is an extraordinary program, and Board members are encouraged to visit a classroom.

B. Discussion Regarding Criteria for Grant Programs

Board members requested clarification regarding criteria of the following grant programs on the Consent Agenda later in the meeting.

Mrs. Danhof said the Criteria for the No Child Left Behind Act, Title II, Part A(1): Improving Teacher and Principal Quality Grants focus on teachers, and she asked how principals are included. Dr. Flora Jenkins, Director, Office of Professional Preparation Services, said the emphasis is on teachers, because the focus is on the highly qualified teacher provision. She said it is a priority to visit every school district to determine what is being done to meet the highly qualified teacher provision, what measures are being used to meet annual objectives, and whether or not there is equitable distribution of teachers. She said the United States Department of Education monitoring team visited, and commended the efforts of the Department to visit all districts to review information and provide technical assistance. She said principal quality could be addressed in the future.

Mr. Austin said the professional qualification credential for administrators is needed and should be promoted in the Legislature.

Mr. Austin said there are limited resources to focus on the Board's Strategic Goal, and continued scrutiny must be placed on obtaining the most value from funding, based on the outcomes.

Mrs. Bauer said all educators should be acquainted with Universal Design for Learning and differentiated instruction so that they can create instructional activities to meet the needs of all learners so all students achieve. Dr. Jenkins said resources are offered to schools during monitoring.

Mrs. Danhof said Criteria for a Title I Accountability Grant should incorporate scientific research including national research. Mrs. Betty Underwood, Interim Director, Office of School Improvement, said the system of support for high priority schools is based on research, and therefore it is embedded in the criteria. Mrs. Danhof asked that it be stated explicitly in the criteria. Mrs. Underwood said that language will be added to the criteria, and shared with the Board later in the meeting. There was Board consensus to add the language.

Mrs. Straus asked how the Criteria for the Title III English Language Acquisition Grant have changed. Ms. Linda Forward, Supervisor, Academic Support, Office of School Improvement, said the United States Department of Education has required that the allocations to districts for English Language Acquisition be limited to the 85 percent portion set aside for English Language Acquisition from the state's allocation.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 10:59 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING

X. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of February 12, 2008

Mrs. Danhof asked for clarification of items 7 and 8 on page 4 of the Minutes. The following revisions were proposed:

7. if a portion of the work involved in assessment and testing is done inside, will it be viewed as credible by the outside – *the printing and distribution will still be done by contractors; it is also anticipated that an INDEPENDENT outside group of psychometricians would review and assure that we have valid and reliable results;*
8. are there enough psychometricians available, and will the Department be able to provide positions competitive with the outside testing companies – *psychometrician market is tight; ~~there~~ BUT WE are BUILDING IN multiple levels to allow for advancement; psychometricians typically enjoy research opportunities in real applications in an educational setting that are readily available at the Michigan Department of Education, which is not usually the case in other employment opportunities;*

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of February 12, 2008, as modified.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich

Absent: McGuire

The motion carried.

- B. Approval of Record of Joint Meeting of State Board of Education and the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers of February 21, 2008

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of Joint Meeting of State Board of Education and the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers of February 21, 2008.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich

Absent: McGuire

The motion carried.

XI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Lakewood Public Schools in Lake Odessa

Mrs. Straus said she and Mrs. Bauer visited Lakewood Public Schools in Lake Odessa on March 10, 2008. She said they visited classes at the high school, and were impressed with the administrators, teachers, and students. She said after school they met with faculty, students, and administrators; they attended the local school board meeting; and had dinner with the superintendent and the teacher who invited them to visit the district. She said the day provided opportunities to exchange information on school funding, high school graduation requirements, the No Child Left Behind Act, and other areas. She said it was a very beneficial visit and the spirit of community was apparent.

Mrs. Straus said that in 1995 the Lakewood Public Schools established a Circle of Excellence recognizing individuals for exhibiting excellence. She said the recipient is recognized at the board meeting, and in the local newspaper.

Mrs. Straus said when she visits school districts she often hears skepticism about what is being required of students. She said she repeatedly explains that if expectations are raised, students will meet the challenge.

Mrs. Bauer said she believes school visits are a very valuable learning experience, and she encourages others to visit schools. She said Lakewood Public Schools is the second largest geographic school district in the state. She said they discussed transportation, Proposal A, and encouraged people to enter the political process by contacting legislators to express their viewpoints and influence public policy.

B. Tri-County Educational Center – Berkley School District

Mrs. Straus said she visited Berkley School District's Tri-County Educational Center in Southfield which is a collaborative effort among several school districts. She said students who have left or been expelled from schools in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties can choose to attend this alternative high school. She said she spoke with students who said teachers care about them and help them in this small school setting. Mrs. Straus said the Dean of the school knows all the students by name as well as their families. Mrs. Straus said students experience positive attitude shifts and want to graduate. Mrs. Straus said online instruction and adult education are also available in this collaborative setting.

Mrs. Curtin asked if the time students spent as high school dropouts may have influenced their decision to return to school to earn a high school diploma. Mrs. Straus said she believed that was likely a factor.

C. University Preparatory Academy in Detroit

Mrs. Straus said she visited University Preparatory Academy in Detroit on February 25. She said this is a public school academy where students are divided into groups of 16 high school students who have the same advisor for four years, and they meet with their advisor several times a week until they graduate. She said in addition to the high school, there is a middle school and an elementary school. She said they are working on an additional elementary school. She said they focus on relationships and building a culture of learning.

D. Eastern Michigan University Write-Link Program

Mrs. Straus said she attended Eastern Michigan University's Write-Link Program awards ceremony. She said Write-Link is an effective writing program in several Detroit high schools,

and students were being honored for their outstanding efforts. She said she had the opportunity to view several writing samples, and she was impressed.

E. Governor's Education Summit

Mrs. Straus said she attended the Governor's Education Summit on March 4 which focused on the use of educational technology in the classroom. Mrs. Straus said there were excellent presentations by Governor Granholm, Mike Flanagan, Yong Zhao, and Alan November.

F. MACUL Conference

Mrs. Straus said she and Ms. Ulbrich attended the Michigan Association for Computer-related technology Users in Learning (MACUL) Conference on March 5 and 6 in Grand Rapids. She said Ms. Mary Cullinane, from Microsoft Corporation, described her experience in helping to develop the "school of the future" in Philadelphia. She was very complimentary about the work being done in Michigan, and the Department of Education. Mrs. Straus distributed booklets provided by Ms. Cullinane, "Achieve – Microsoft's Commitment to Michigan." Mrs. Straus said she would like a future presentation to the Board by Ms. Cullinane on MI-LIFE (Michigan Leadership Improvement Framework Endorsement).

XII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

E. Report on Administrative Rule Waivers

F. Human Resources Update

G. Report on Department of Education Cosponsorships

Grants

H. 2007-2008 State-Funded Pre-College Engineering Grants – Initial

I. 2007-2008 Title III – English Language Acquisition Program (Final) – Amendment

J. 2007-2008 Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology – Amendment

K. 2007-2008 Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology – Initial and Continuation

S. 2007-2008 Special Projects Grants Under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Amendment

Mrs. Bauer said Administrative Rule Waivers to increase numbers of students in classrooms are becoming more frequent as a way to address limited funding. She said as the Board discusses the value of smaller schools and smaller class sizes, these issues need to be aligned for adequate funding of a system that is known to be effective for students.

XIII. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

A written report by Mrs. June Teisan, 2007-2008 Michigan Teacher of the Year, was provided. Mrs. Straus said Mrs. Teisan is one of four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year, and she is in Washington, D.C. completing the final round of interviews.

XIV. DISCUSSION REGARDING NASBE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Mrs. Danhof presented Discussion Regarding National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Award Nominations.

Mrs. Danhof said the National Association of State Boards of Education is accepting nominations for 2008 Policy Leader of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Friend of Education Award.

Mrs. Danhof said she is recommending Congressman Dale Kildee for the Policy Leader of the Year Award. She said the Board nominated him last year, and she believes he is deserving of the award.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education nominate Congressman Dale Kildee for the NASBE Policy Leader of the Year Award.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich
Absent: McGuire

The motion carried.

There was Board consensus to make no further nominations at this time.

XV. RECEIVE THE 2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR TEACHERS

Dr. Flora Jenkins, Director, Office of Professional Preparation Services, presented 2006-2007 Annual Report of the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers.

Dr. Jenkins said in accordance with the State Board of Education charge to the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers, the annual report of activities accomplished during 2006-2007 is being presented.

Mrs. Danhof said mentoring and induction are important in retaining teachers and assisting them to advance their careers. Ms. MaryAlice Galloway, Assistant to the Chief Academic Officer, clarified that it will be included in future discussions of the Professional Preparation Practices and Development Standing Committee of the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers. There was Board consensus that no changes would be made in the 2006-2007 report.

Mrs. Danhof ended her telephone connection at 11:30 a.m.

Ms. Ulbrich asked for clarification regarding the plans to establish licensing for support staff. Dr. Jenkins said that was part of the Committee discussion, however the Department does not currently have the authority to license support staff.

Mrs. Straus thanked Mr. Austin for facilitating the joint meeting of the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers on February 21, 2008.

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Ms. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education receive the 2006-2007 Annual Report of the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 25, 2008.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich
Absent: Danhof, McGuire

The motion carried.

XVI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Roberta Stanley, Director, Administrative Law and Federal Relations, presented Legislative Update.

Ms. Stanley provided an update on the federal budget debates in the House and Senate, Medicaid regulation issues, No Child Left Behind Act reauthorization, and school construction.

XVII. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval

- O. Approval of Request to Change Name of Berrien County Intermediate School District to Berrien Regional Education Service Agency

Criteria

- P. Approval of Criteria for the No Child Left Behind Act, Title II, Part A(1): Improving Teacher and Principal Quality Grants
- Q. Approval of Criteria for Title I Accountability Grant
- R. Approval of Criteria for the Title III English Language Acquisition Grant

Resolution

- T. Adoption of Resolution for the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust

Mrs. Hamilton said that in response to discussion earlier in the meeting, Mrs. Underwood has suggested the following revisions to Approval of Criteria for Title I Accountability Grant:

Replace bullets 3, 4, and 5 in the Criteria section on Page Two with the following.

- Deep understanding of research-based practices that impact student achievement with a focus on
 - Providing technical assistance and professional development to ensure that all educators and administrators have the skills they need to effectively increase student achievement
 - Using data as a critical component of increasing student achievement
 - Impacting target populations most at risk of failing to make academic achievement

Second sentence in the Background/Purpose of Grant section on Page Two will begin with "RESEARCH BASED professional development. . ."

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the consent agenda as follows:

- O. approve the request of the Berrien County Intermediate School District to change its name to Berrien Regional Education Service Agency, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 25, 2008;
- P. approve the Criteria for the No Child Left Behind Act, Title II Part A(1), Improving Teacher and Principal Quality Grants, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 25, 2008;
- Q. approve the Criteria for a Title I Accountability grant to an intermediate school district or regional educational service agency, or a consortium thereof, or an organization representing ISD/ESAs, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 25, 2008, and as modified by discussion;
- R. approve the criteria for the Title III English Language Acquisition grant, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 25, 2008; and
- T. adopt the resolution for the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 7, 2008.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich
Absent: Danhof, McGuire

The motion carried.

The resolution regarding Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust is attached as Exhibit A.

XVIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

- A. June Teisan in *Detroit Free Press Twist*

Mrs. Bauer said Mrs. June Teisan, Teacher of the Year, was highlighted in the February 24, 2008, issue of the *Detroit Free Press Twist* supplement.

XIX. RECESS

The Board recessed at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Mr. Austin left the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

XX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (continued)

Ms. Lisa Hansknecht, Legislative Director, presented Legislative Update.

Ms. Hansknecht said she just returned from the House Education Committee Meeting on House Bill 4662, regarding mandatory kindergarten and full day kindergarten, and no vote was taken.

Ms. Hansknecht said House Bill 4042, regarding raising the drop out age from 16 to 18 years of age is under discussion. She said there has been discussion regarding the availability of drop out prevention and retention programs. She said this is one of the issues to be discussed by the Subcommittee on High School Alternatives. Ms. Hansknecht said the members of the Subcommittee are Representatives Hopgood, Dean, Emmons, Opsommer, and Lindberg. She said there has been one meeting with presentations by Mr. Michael Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Ms. Betty Underwood, Interim Director, Office of School Improvement; and Ms. Deborah Clemmons, Supervisor, Curriculum and Literacy, Office of School Improvement; on high school curriculum and personal curriculum.

Ms. Hansknecht said the budget is moving without rancor, and it is expected to pass the Senate prior to the April spring break. She said there has been debate about what should be included in testing, the small schools proposal, and foundation allowance funding in the State School Aid Act. She said budget updates will be provided to Board members as new information becomes available.

Mr. Turner said public school academies have expressed concern that they do not benefit fully in the proposed increase in the foundation allowance. Ms. Hansknecht said the amount of the increase is dependent on how many high school grades are provided, because the cost of high school programs is determined to be more expensive. She said it is not based on whether or not a school district is a public school academy or a traditional school district.

Mr. Turner asked which groups support or oppose full day kindergarten. Ms. Hansknecht said she will get that information to Board members.

Mrs. Straus asked if there is discussion regarding moving the kindergarten entry age to five years of age by September 1 from the current date of December 1. Ms. Hansknecht said entry age is likely to be part of the discussion, as it has been in the past.

Mrs. Bauer asked that Board members be notified when there are opportunities for them to provide input to the Legislature regarding the budget.

XXI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Mrs. Mary T. Wood, Warren, Michigan. Mrs. Wood presented verbal and written comments on public school academies.
- B. Ms. Cathy Tilles, Brighton, Michigan. Ms. Tilles provided verbal and written comments on after school programs and supplemental educational services appeals.
- C. Mr. Geer Wilcox, East Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Wilcox, representing the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, provided verbal comments and written information on Braille literacy.
- D. Ms. Diana Mohnke, St. Johns, Michigan. Ms. Mohnke provided verbal comments on Braille literacy.
- E. Mr. John Scott, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Scott, President, Detroit Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, provided verbal comments on Braille literacy.
- F. Mr. George Wurtzel, Greenville, Michigan. Mr. Wurtzel, Executive Director, Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, provided verbal comments on Braille literacy.
- G. Mr. Fred Wurtzel, Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Wurtzel, President, National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, provided verbal comments on Braille literacy.

XXII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mrs. Straus said she would like a presentation to the Board in May by Mary Cullinane, Microsoft Corporation, regarding MI-LIFE. She said the Evaluation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction will be part of the April Meeting.

Mrs. Bauer said she has sent a list of suggested topics for future Board meetings to Mrs. Hamilton, which includes restorative justice as a topic.

XXIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. April 8, 2008
- B. May 13, 2008
- C. June 10, 2008
- D. June 16, 2008 State Board of Education Retreat

XXIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary